

# THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

## AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

Vol. I.]

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[No. 28.]

### THE MILITARY MONITOR, AND AMERICAN REGISTER, By T. O'CONNOR,

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### Official.

#### NOTICE TO BRITISH SUBJECTS.

*Marshal's Office of the United States of A-  
merica, for the district of New-York, at the  
city of New-York, March 4, 1813.*

By virtue of the power vested in me,  
and special instructions from the proper  
authority, all Alien Enemies, engaged in  
commerce, and residing and being with-  
in forty miles of tide water, or the mar-  
gins of the Hudson and East Rivers and  
Long-Island Sound in the district of  
New-York, and particularly those in the  
city of New-York, are hereby required  
forthwith to retire beyond that distance  
from tide-water, and the margins of  
the Hudson and East Rivers, and the  
Sound. Passports for their departure  
will be given at the Marshal's Office,  
and the places of their residence therein  
designated. Persons of the above des-  
cription, who refuse or neglect to comply  
with this requisition, will be immedi-  
ately taken into custody.

And all alien enemies, not engaged in  
commerce and residing and being within  
forty miles of tide water, or the margins  
of the Hudson and East Rivers and the  
Sound, in said District, are required im-  
mediately to apply to the Marshal for  
permission to remain where they are;  
which permission will be granted when  
it satisfactorily appears that their inten-  
tions towards the United States are  
friendly, and that the indulgence and

hospitality which has been extended to  
them has not been abused or misap-  
plied.

Also, alien enemies, of every occupa-  
tion and profession, who have arrived in  
the city of New-York from a foreign  
place since the declaration of war, are  
required without delay to retire into the  
interior of the country, beyond the dis-  
tance above mentioned. If the different  
requisitions required by this notice are  
not unconditionally complied with, ri-  
gorous measures will be taken against  
all those to whom it has reference.

**PETER CURTENIUS.**

Marshal of the District of New-York.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

### Defence of New-York. No. XIX.

Redoubts are preferable to lines, for  
defence, as the whole of your force must  
be distributed through the entire extent  
of the latter, no part of which can sup-  
port the others, and further, as the pau-  
city of your troops forbids me to suppose  
you have an efficient reserve, it follows,  
that as you are equally weak throughout  
the whole entrenchments, the moment  
the enemy gains any part of them, you  
must either retire or suffer the consequen-  
ces of a flank and rear attack, which  
you can neither prevent nor resist with  
success.

Armies, have seldom defended lines  
with success: numerous instances could  
be quoted in proof of this assertion, from  
the days of Cæsar, to the late attack on  
the lines near Batavia, and the more re-  
cent capture of the entrenched camp of  
Drissa, on which millions had been ex-  
pended in the vain hope of rendering it  
impregnable.

The raising of the siege of Turin, by  
Prince Eugene, in the early part of the  
last century, was owing to the French

having waited in their lines contrary to  
the opinion of the Duke of Orleans, who  
strongly urged in council, that they  
should marched out and meet their ene-  
mies on the plain; a disregard of this  
advice proved fatal to the French army,  
who were defeated in the utmost confu-  
sion, with the loss of all their artillery,  
the number of which was prodigious.

M. De Fouquieres, speaking of lines  
formed for covering a country, says "I  
shall only mention some instances of  
their inefficacy, which I have seen—  
when they are even guarded by an army,  
and especially when the extent of the  
lines is not so considerable as the ene-  
my's front, which is always the fact.

The shortest lines we have formed  
to cover a country which we were di-  
sireous to exempt from contribution;  
were those of Courtray, and they were  
twice abandoned by Mess. de la Valette  
and Villars. The two generals conduct-  
ed themselves with prudence, though  
their motions were different; M. de la  
Valette who was too weak, retreated to  
a place where he had an opportunity of  
continuing in security, till M. de Luxem-  
burg relieved him by gaining the battle  
of Nerwinden.

M. de Villars who had a body of near  
14000 men had recourse to a judicious  
expedient. He judged that were he to  
confront the enemy, with an intention to  
support the lines, he might be easily  
forced, because he was much weaker  
than the enemies would be in every  
quarter, where they should happen to  
make their principal efforts by night.—  
He therefore chose a good post towards  
the centre of his lines, and this disposi-  
tion intimidated the enemy from attack-  
ing him in a situation where he had  
drawn all his troops together; and they  
were as much discouraged from pene-  
trating further into the country, either  
by advancing with their flank to our  
troops or by leaving them in their rear."



He further relates, that, one of their greatest defects is their making it necessary for the general who is ordered to support them, to behold his enemies forming hazardous motions while he is in no condition to chastise their temerity because he can only desile from his lines.

Count Saxe, in his memoirs declares himself averse to lines and retrenchments, from a persuasion that the only good lines are those which nature has made; and that the best retrenchments are, in other words the best dispositions and the best disciplined troops.

The persuasion of the enemy, that you will never DARE to leave them, renders him bold. He trifles with you even before your face, and hazards several movements which he would be afraid to make if you were in any other situation, and this courage is equally diffused among both "officers and soldiers; because a man always dreads danger itself, less than he does the consequences of it" he recommends the use of the pike in the defence of lines and retrenchments, and that the troops should be posted behind the parapet "because, if the enemy once sets foot upon that, the defendants will no longer think of any thing but their own security; which proceeds from that consternation which is the unavoidable effect of sudden and unexpected events. This is a general rule in war, and is what determines the fate of the day in all actions. It is the irresistible impulse of the human heart; which, on account of its consequences, was the principal motive that induced me to attempt this work; as I am apt to imagine, it would never have occurred to any other person, to ascribe the greatest part of the bad success of armies to this cause, although the true one"

He concludes the eighth chapter of his second book thus—The defence of retrenchments is attended with a great many difficulties, because it is a manœuvre that intimidates the troops: and although I have given my opinion in regard to what may be useful upon the subject, and have recommended such measures as appear the most promising of success, yet I am far from being an advocate for these works, and am rather disposed to exert my influence towards having them totally laid aside. My favourite defences are redoubts, the superior advantage of which I shall endeavour to demonstrate in the following chapter.

AMICUS

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

If, indeed, some great men have been remarked for their phlegmatic deportment and moderate desires, it must be

considered as rather the effect of constant exertion to command the passions, than of native temperament, Washington is an instance, and we are induced to smile, when we hear that Charles the 12th. the terror of Europe retained to the last an awkward bashfulness; and that Frederick the great often betrayed a caprice of temper, unworthy of a school-boy—Charles, during the suppuration of a wound, was forsaken by his wonted energy, and Frederick, whose constancy of mind could not be shaken by the misfortunes of war and the cabals of courts, blushed with anger, when Tiebault neglected to praise his literary compositions: so true it is, that no man is a hero to his valet de chambre "what we view nearly does not excite the same surprise as what we regard at a distance, and we are disposed to laugh at our credulity in scrutinising objects, which had previously induced our reverence de Retz to say, *les exemples du passé touchent sans comparaison plus les hommes, que ceux de leur siècle; nous nous accoutumons à tout ce que nous voyons; et peut être que le consulat du cheval de Calégula ne nous auroit pas tant surpris que nous nous l'imaginons.*"

The Duke of Berwick, in his memoirs, mentions a body of troops which had fought with distinguished valor; it so happened, that, at a successful moment, by some trivial circumstance, they were seized with a panic and fled from the field.

Mr.—an officer of the revolution the night before an engagement, visited the guards of the American camp; he came behind one centinel, who (although the weather was mild) shook every limb; Mr. expected to have seen the poor fellow disgrace himself the ensuing day; the fight was brisk, and this very soldier fought with great bravery; this man felt that the "soul grows in danger"—

I knew a man who would meet any danger with less emotion than the sight of a bull; he could not account for this antipathy, but did not rest contented, until he one day took hold of the horns of one of those animals.

Many distinguished men have had a dread of water; Peter the great of Russia, in his youth, shook with apprehension in a boat, and general Hamilton could not conquer a like feeling.

A gentleman now in the army has such an antipathy to cheese, that he feels sick if it be placed before him on table.

Sir Hyde Parker dreaded a sight of a cat, and general B—of our revolution, for the same cause, was termed by the British, "General Pussy Cat."

Whether true or not, the following anecdote may amuse the reader, an of-

ficer had a singular antipathy to carrots; one day, among a number of guests, an acquaintance put a carrot into his pocket: in taking out his handkerchief, he drew the vegetable with it, and fell back in his chair; the company smiled, and the unfortunate man, recovering from the apparently death blow, demanded the name of the aggressor, which the party thought prudent to conceal; the carrot hater was soon ordered abroad with his regiment, and returned a twelvemonth after with fame and promotion; the minchievous wight who had played him the trick ran to embrace him, and, after some congratulations, observed, "now you must have recovered your temper, I will tell you, I put the carrot in your pocket at—" the other was enraged and insisted on satisfaction the ensuing morning, his friend expostulated without effect, and had the alternative to fight or be posted as a poltroon; he chose the former; the gallant carrot hater was first on the ground of combat; his adversary, in passing to the place of rendezvous, happening to see an old woman selling carrots, purchased a large one and hastened on "now exclaimed the other, I will teach you to trifle with the feelings of a gentleman; I am truly sorry for it said his friend: no apology would suffice, the lists are opened, and as the unfortunate officer advanced with his rapier, his antagonist draws the carrot from his bosom with as furious a gesture—eat it, then hero, eat it! alas! the poor hero falls back unerved, and the other swears by the laws of chivalry, he will not measure swords with a man who is to be frightened by a carrot—"

Such antipathies are not to be accounted for yet certainly exist; and are as ridiculous as the Hypochondria we often hear of: judge—at times, fancied himself a clock; his servant has gone to his study to announce dinner waiting; he would find the judge stuck up in a corner, clacking with his tongue to imitate the ticking of a clock; "sir, dinner is ready, stop until I strike;" he would then clack so many times for the hour, and composedly go to his meal.

We may laugh at the idea of a cobbler conceiving he had swallowed his lap stone, but it is not as extraordinary as the case of a man, who thought he had swallowed a cooky woman with a red petticoat, whom he had seen at New-York; the poor fellow would tell his friends she kicked him violently while baking her cakes, and bellow out with pain of the load; this is a fact known to many persons.

Mr.—of the house of commons, sometimes thought his head was running away: his eloquence always claimed



attention, but it was ludicrous to hear him cry out in an interesting debate "Mr. Speaker, this bill—my head—the honorable gentleman—for God sake; see it is going; his head would turn towards his shoulder, and, when "so far and no farther," he would recover himself and continue his speech.—

The above anecdotes may appear digressive, but they are not really so, when we consider them as instancing the weakness of human nature.—

RUPERT.

## The Military Monitor.

NEW YORK,

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1813.

The Proprietors of this Paper having purchased a complete

### PRINTING OFFICE,

have established the same in Church Street No 6, back of St. Paul's Church yard. Will thankfully execute all orders for Printing, with which they may be favored, either in French, English or Spanish, as neatly and expeditiously as any others of the profession in this city and on as cheap terms.

Orders for this Paper, addressed as above, will meet with prompt attention.

On the 4th inst. commenced the new term of Mr. MADISON's second Presidency, which was observed by several convivial parties in this City.

The morn was ushered in by the firing of guns; and during the day the national flag was displayed on several public buildings.

We sincerely wish the future epoch of our worthy Chief Magistrate's official duties, may prove more fortunate than the last, and that long before its expiration, the People of these United States will be restored to a state of honourable peace, the effect of successful wars, not of mean submission;—and that in the expulsion of the Indian allies from this continent "our red brethren" losing all incentives to future warfare, will turn their tomahawks and scalping knives into instruments of husbandry, and relinquishing the character of warriors, commence the first step towards civilization by becoming husbandmen.

STATE OF ENGLAND.—The Prince Regent of England, is at war with

France,

Italy,

Switzerland,

Germany,

Austria,

Poland,

Holland,

The adherents of Joseph Bonaparte in Spain and Portugal,

The United States of America,

The People of England,\*

The People of Ireland,†

The People of Scotland,‡

The Allies of the France are,

The Emperor of Russia, as far as respects the preservation of his own dominions,

The King of Sweden, on paper.

The Dey of Algiers, (Risum teneatis.)

The Wabash Prophet,

Ferdinand the 7th, in prison.

The Pope, ditto

Castlereagh, Canning & Co.

A few Tories and pensioned spies, lurking in America.

\* It is stated, in the National Intelligencer, that 60,000 of the militia were lately enrolled, in England, on the establishment of regular troops, and distributed in the different towns in England, to keep the PEOPLE from rising en masse.

† It is unnecessary to quote any thing in proof of the state of hostility between the British government and the Irish people. England commenced war against Ireland in the year 1172, and although the Irish people have seemingly submitted, yet the war has been uninterruptedly continued on the part of the British government, by persecution in various shapes, for near 700 years.—The Irish have, it is true, always sighed for independence and were ever ready to assert it; and, if they have in some instances been gulled by the false pretences of their enemy, and at other times defeated for want of general co-operation, yet it must be admitted, that the times of apparent peace were not so in reality, but more properly, "a peace like a war."

‡ From the London Morning Chronicle of Dec. 5 1812. "The condition of the people in Scotland is, at this time, so deplorable, that we lament to see there have been disturbances of an alarming kind. The proclamation of the Provost and magistrates of Aberdeen (a city distinguished for taking the lead in addressing ministers, and expressing their approbation of every state measure) will shew the situation of that place, the design of the mob was, by breaking into the bridewell, to seize on the arms of the militia, which were deposited there. They fortunately did not succeed."

**Mournful ravages of Death.**—The Trenton TRUE AMERICAN, states that the spotted fever rages in Monmouth, (N. J.) "As many as ten and twelve graves are frequently opened in one day, and in the same grave yard. In many instances five, six and seven members of a family are swept into eternity with the shortest notice. The most healthy and robust survive its attack but three or four hours."—At Kinderhook the mortality has been great beyond example—twelve persons have died in one day. Four members of the legislature and many citizens of Albany have fallen victims to the epidemic. In many towns in Vermont, disease and death have appeared in the most terrific forms—whole families having died in the course of a few days. In Montgomery county, (on the Mohawk); at Herkimer, Utica, Auburn—in the counties of Seneca, Ontario, Genesee, the mortality has been unprecedented. It is said that more than 60 male heads of families died at and near Manheim within a few weeks past.

### Summary.

RUMOUR.—By the mail of yesterday, it was stated, that Capt. Porter with the Essex frigate had arrived in the Delaware, after having captured his B. M. frigate (Astor), with the loss of 150 men killed and wounded on the

part of the enemy.

A letter from the Post-Master of Philadelphia, to the Post-master in this City, says—"the report is not confirmed."

An express arrived in this City on Friday last, about 3 o'clock P. M. from Washington—Its object, we are yet to learn; we are induced to believe that it is not on Government concern.

The interest excited last week, for the safety of Sacketts' Harbour, and our Flotilla on Lake Erie, we are happy to state has subsided, by information received that the British troops who had taken possession of Ogdensburg, have evacuated that place, and retired into their own territory.

In our first page, will be found the marshal's instructions to cause all British Subjects not naturalized to depart 40 miles from any tide water within the United States.

### FOREIGN.

By the arrival of the ship Mary, capt. Terry London papers to the 17th, January have been received. Their contents are important and interesting, they contain Lord Cathcart's accounts of the operations of the Russian and French armies, to a later date than before received. He states that the French army was reduced by successive defeats to 20,000 effective men, and that it was supposed that even this small remnant of the mighty and numerous legions of Napoleon would not be able to effect their escape, that it was reduced almost to a certainty that only a few officers would be able to save themselves by flight, from their conquerors. It appears that the French have lost in this campaign in killed and prisoners between 300,000 and 400,000 men, if the report of the Russian department of war is entitled to credit, that in addition to the loss of men, the French have lost between 700 and 1000 pieces of cannon, all their magazines, and munitions of war, and that a great part of the private effects of the French Emperor, with some important and interesting state papers have fallen into the hands of the conquerors.

By the same arrival we are credibly informed, that, the English government is determined to make an attack on some of our principal ports in the coming Spring, & that N. York is particularly destined for their first attack.—It is also added that there were lying in Portsmouth, ready for sea, 19 sail of the line, as before mentioned in our last, which are to be joined by several other armed vessels, all provided with the necessaries of war for the purpose of blockading our coast, their intentions, are, it is said to attack us, whilst our troops were marching into Canada.

Private letters, received by the Mary, states that Sweden has made a formal declaration of war against France.

### Extracts.

FROM THE AURORA.

#### A SKETCH.

OF THE PROGRESS OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

#### No. III.

We think it cannot be too earnestly impressed on the minds of those who wish to understand the subject that



Discipline is a HABIT, acquired by repeated and well conducted practice, according to rational rules, in performing certain actions and movements, in the manner required and taught—and at the time and in the time commanded; and that habit so well established in every individual, that in performing any thing required to be done, every individual will, from habit, perform it according to the manner of discipline, in preference to any other manner.

This is a more complete idea of the effect required by a good discipline than any we have seen. It may be illustrated by a circumstance which is very familiar. In military exercises of marching, the left foot is always the first advanced. Men, accustomed even for a short time only, to the exercise of military marching, will, uniformly, and without premeditation, step off with the left foot first; this is a habit fixed, and so far discipline has succeeded; but the habit must be as well confirmed in every other particular, such as stepping at every pace two feet and no more: whether moving fast or slow.

In describing discipline as a habit of acting acquired by reiterated practice, that is by a frequent uniform exercise of the same actions in the same manner; and until that habit supercedes and becomes more easy and convenient than any previous habit; it must be pertinent to say something about the various evolutions, or modes of unfolding the whole or the separate parts into which a military corps is divided. In order to be clearly understood, we shall refer to familiar things—thus the formation of the column in the three modes laid down by Steuben, and the nineteen manœuvres as they are called, which have been held forth as the *ne plus ultra* of military excellence, are more or less known by every one; these we call evolutions and not manœuvres, as we confine the latter term to the evolutions of several parts of the same army, and though they may each perform a different kind of evolution, the whole of the evolutions form only one manœuvre. An evolution then belongs to the movements of one body or its parts. A manœuvre belongs to the movements of several bodies, moving in different modes, to accomplish one common object.

Apply the habit of exercise in a prescribed manner, which is only another name for military discipline, to evolutions, and we immediately understand an evolution to be the movement of a part, or of several parts of a military body, whether a company, troop, battalion, squadron, or regiment, according to the manner prescribed and esta-

blished as the rule of movement in all such cases, and we at once perceive that to move all alike, and well, we must exercise in the same manner, that is, we must march, face, and wheel in the same manner, and at the same words of command, and that unless we practice these marchings, facings, & wheelings, in the same manner, and frequently too, we shall not be able to understand them nor to execute them.

Further: as it relates to officers, it is impossible that they can understand what they do not practice—it is impossible that they can teach what they neither have practised nor understand; that is, “the mechanical part of their trade.”

And here we cannot refrain from introducing an extract from the, “*Hints to Young Generals*,” it tells a thousand truths in a sentence, it is prophecy and matter of fact—but hear—

Generals have been divided into three classes; *theorists*, who by study and reflection, have made themselves acquainted with the rules, or maxims, of the art they profess; *Martinetts*, who have confined their attention merely to the mechanical part of the trade; and *practical men*, who have no other, or better guide than their own, experience, in either branch of it. This last description is, in all services excepting our own, the most numerous; but with us, gives peace to a fourth, viz: men destitute alike of *theory* and *experience*.

Self-respect, is one thing; and presumption, another. Without the former, no man ever became a good officer; under the influence of the latter, generals have committed great faults. The former, is the necessary result of knowledge; the latter of ignorance.—A man acquainted with his duty, can rarely be placed in circumstances new, surprising, or embarrassing; a man ignorant of his duty, will always find himself constrained to guess, and not knowing how to be right by *system*, will often be wrong by *chance*.

These remarks are neither made, nor offered, as applying exclusively to the science of war. They apply to all other sciences; but in these, errors are comparatively harmless. A naturalist, may amuse himself and the public with false and fanciful theories of the earth; and a metaphysician may reason very badly on the relations and law or matter and spirit, without any ill effect but to make themselves ridiculous. Their blunders but make us merry; they neither pick pockets, nor break legs, nor destroy lives, while those of a general bring after them evils the most compounded and mischievous; the laughter of an army, the devastation of a state, the ruin of an empire!

In proportion as ignorance may be calamitous, the reasons of acquiring instruction are multiplied and strengthened. Are you an honest man? You will spare neither labor nor sacrifice to gain a competent knowledge of your duty. Are you a man of honor? You will be careful to avoid self reproach. Does your bosom glow with the holy fervor of patriotism? You will so accomplish yourself as to avoid bringing down upon your country either insult or injury.

Nor are the more selfish impulses without a similar tendency. Has *hunger* made you a soldier? Will you not take care of your daily bread? Is *vanity* your principle of action? Will you not guard those mighty blessings, your epaulets and feathers? Are you impelled by a love of *glory* or a love of *power*? And can you forget that these coy mistresses are only to be won by intelligence and good conduct?

“But the means of instruction—where are they to be found? Our standing army is but a bad and ill-organized militia; and our militia, not better than mob. Nor have the Poljtenic schools. The morbid patriotism of some, and the false economy of others, have nearly obliterated every thing like military knowledge among us.”

This, reader, is but one motive the more for reinstating it. Thanks to the noble art of printing, you still have books, which if studied, will teach the art of war.

“Books! and what are they but the dreams of pedants? They may make a Mack, but have they ever made a Xenophon, a Cæsar, a Saxe, a Frederick, or a Bonaparte? Who would not laugh to hear the cobbler of Athens lecturing Hannibal on the art of war?” True but as you are not Hannibal “listen to the Cobbler!”

Let us again return to the matters which compose the mechanical part of discipline; and without which no evolutions can be executed.

The author of the “*Hints to Young Generals*” says—“It must be taken for granted, that every man who accepts the command of an army knows at least ‘the alphabet of his trade.’”

To adopt this idea of the alphabet of the military trade, we shall say, that it really consists of only three letters, the A, B, C, of the military art, consists in *marching, facing, and wheeling*; all evolutions, all manœuvres, are reducible to these three simple elements; the exact and proper use of which in the manner and at the time required, constitutes the basis of all military discipline; and its perfection consists in the exactness with which *marching, facing, and wheeling* are performed.

To exemplify: a rank of a company being composed of men of unequal stature; the men on the right and left of the rank are six feet high or more; and in their ordinary walking, before they have acquired discipline, step from 30 to 35 inches in their ordinary pace; in the centre of the same rank are men only five feet five, or five feet eight inches; the ordinary pace of men of this stature is from twenty-three to twenty-eight inches; now one of the mechanical principles of discipline is to regulate the *marching of men of unequal stature*, so that they shall walk an equal number of paces, and each pace of an equal number of men out of sight of each other should march equal spaces in equal times.

Let us now see the use of this preci-



sion, mechanical exactness in walking. In the first place, as the strength of a military body, both in assailing and resisting an assault, depends upon the common impulsion and compactness of the body; if it be put in motion, to charge and attack, it is necessary to their compactness, that one man should not take shorter nor longer paces than the others; this shews the necessity of rendering pace uniformly the same. *For further illustrations of this all important subject, we refer to the AMER. MIL. LIB. vol. I. page 114, &c.*

Take this in another view, for example, as it constitutes the difference between a mob and an equal number of disciplined men. Undisciplined men have no common rule, no method known to all and every of them, by which they can unite their individual force in one common impulse, either to attack or to resist, they are perfectly conscious too, that disciplined men are possessed of a *something*, a *certain skill*, of which the undisciplined neither know the *nature* nor the *use*, they only know the effect; and their minds from their very ignorance lose that confidence which disciplined men possess, because every disciplined man knows that all who are in the same rank will act as he does, that they will act by a common impulse; and the very opposite effect is produced on *their minds* to that which is produced on the minds of the undisciplined—we see it in the conduct of *militia* and *regulars*; militia have neither the knowledge of what discipline is, nor any practice to draw forth their faculties, for you cannot *alter* or *improve* any man's habits by appearing two or even ten days in a year at a militia muster where there is neither authority to enforce exercise, nor skill to teach what is proper; nor time sufficient if there was both authority and skill. Nor is this defect confined to militia; the battle of *Rosbach* gained by the king of *Prussia* over the French and Austrians, was the effect of a *superior discipline* over an imperfect or defective discipline; it was a new discipline triumphing over an old; the French troops were under the command of *Saubise* a courtier; who obtained his command by intrigue, and was *incompetent to lead* the troops he commanded; the French troops then first saw the new evolutions of *Frederick*; and neither the general nor the soldiers understood those never movements, & they were as much intimidated as the Mexicans, at the sight of horses, and the Romans at the sight of elephants; which possessed a power new and to unknown them.

Again, apply it to mere evolutions, that is the movements and unfolding of

the parts of an army; thus a brigade of four regiments is posted at four different points, and it is required, that none of them quit its position until a given hour, but that the whole meet at one point at a subsequent hour; the officer in command knows the distance which each corps has to march, and he knows they all march at two feet to a pace, and 120 paces a minute; he knows then the last hour and moment which he may suffer each regiment to remain, because he knows in how many minutes they can join him.

Finally, in evolutions in the field, corps are stationed in relation to each other at sustaining distance; this distance is estimated by knowing the position of the enemy, and the time which he can move over a given space of ground; the sustaining corps is stationed at such a distance as that it may be called in and able to arrive in time to sustain the corps to which it is a support. The accuracy of the march is here also the basis, and the case applies to another point in the questions from the "*Hints to young generals*." How can a general, ignorant of the *alphabet of his trade*, know what an enemy can do, when he does not know how or what to do himself?

*Marching* then is an indispensable part of military discipline; but the modern discipline will not admit of such sluggish operations as characterise the old discipline. Those movements by which the battles of *Leuthen* and *Lodi*, the battles of *Zurich* and *Jena*, were gained, were not executed to psalm tunes nor in paces 75 to a minute; they were evolutions, executed like lightning by battalions moving with an equal impulse, as if they moved only upon one pair of legs and were impelled by a single mind; it is in these evolutions that *facing* and *wheeling* the second and third letters of the alphabet are displayed; it is by reiterated practice; not the practice of a militia called out twice a year to be mustered only to expose the nakedness of the land. *The marching, facing and wheeling* cannot be acquired in an arm chair, nor by instinct, nor even by carrying a commission in the pocket, over which is placed an empty head.

#### (CONTINUED)

SMOLENSK has been so celebrated of late, as the scene of murderous conflicts, between the French and Russian armies, that we trust the following description of it, will be acceptable to our readers.

It is followed by a copy of a letter from an Officer in the French army, in which he describes the consternation that prevailed in Russia, in consequence of their advance

towards Moscow. Though the elements for the present, have opposed barriers to the progress of Napoleon, we shall not be surprised if St. Petersburg exhibit similar scenes in some respects to Smolensko, before the close of the next campaign.

#### DESCRIPTION OF SMOLENSKO.

This town is situate upon the river Dnieper, and stands upon two hills, and upon the valley which lies between them. It is surrounded by walls 70 feet high and 15 thick, with the lower part of stone, and the upper of brick: these walls, which follows the shape of the hills, and enclose a circumference of seven wersts (four miles and three quarters) have at every angle round or square towers of two or three stories, much broader at top than at bottom, and covered with circular roofs of wood.—The intervals are studded with small turrets; on the outside of the wall is a broad deep ditch, regular covered ways, with traverses, glacis, &c. and where the ground is highest, there are redoubts of earth, according to the modern stile of fortification. In the middle of the town is an eminence, upon which stands the cathedral, from whence there is a most picturesque view of the town, interspersed within the circuit of the walls, with gardens, groves, copses, fields, of pasture and corn. The buildings are mostly wooden, of one story, many of them no better than cottages, excepting here and there a Gentleman's house, which is called a palace, and several churches, constructed of brick and stuccoed. One long broad street, which is paved, intersects the whole length of the town in a straight line; the other streets generally wind in circular directions, and are floored with planks. The walls, stretching over the uneven sides of the hills, till they reach the banks of the Dnieper, they ancient style of architecture, their grotesque towers, the spires of churches shooting above the trees, which are so numerous as almost to conceal the buildings from view, the appearance of meadows and the arable ground—all these objects blended together, exhibit a scene of the most singular and contrasted kind. On the further side of the Dnieper are a number of straggling wooden houses, that form the suburbs of the town, and are joined to it by a wooden bridge. This town contains about 4000 inhabitants: it has no manufactures; but carries on some commerce with the Ukraine, Dantzic, and Riga. The principal articles of its trade are flax, hemp, honey, wax, hides, hog's bristles, masts, planks, and Siberian furs.

An area such as the walls of this town describes, including cottages one story high, interspersed with gardens,



groves, copses, fields of pasture and corn, leaves very little space for population; and this is very sufficiently demonstrated in the paucity of the inhabitants of Smolensko, who never were rated higher than 4000 in number. In the wars between Poland and Russia, this town often changed its master—for even when the military science was in its rudest state, Smolensko was incapable of defence.—The fortifications which surround it at present, were constructed by the Czar Feodor Ivannovitch—but they did not prevent Sigismund III. King of Poland, from besieging and taking it in 1614. In 1654, it was again reduced by Alexey Michaelovitch; and in 1686, was finally added to Russia, at the peace of Moscow. It is not extraordinary that it should, in the present age of military science, have been carried, by such a force as was employed against it, directed with all the skill and experience which distinguish the present war.

*Extract of a Letter from Smolensko, August 22.*

For the last week I have scarcely been off my horse; but when affairs go on well, one does not feel fatigue. We are at length in Russia—it is a fine country—the harvest is abundant—the climate is agreeable—and this is the most populous part of this vast empire. You will easily conceive that every thing near the ancient capital offers great resources; it is there the Russian nobility have their largest property, and there is not any comparison with the environs of Petersburg, which are unwholesome and intersected with lakes.

Never will the sight which the inside of Smolensko presented at our entrance into the city, be banished from my recollection. Figure, to yourself all the streets and squares encumbered with the dying and the dead, and the flames illuminating on all sides this frightful picture. Here it was that one might judge of the generosity of the French: nothing was more affecting than to see them precipitate themselves in the midst of the fire, and spend, in checking the progress of the flames, the time they might have employed in sleep. Unhappily it was impossible to save the quarters built with wood. I am lodged in the house of a Russian Counsellor. I replaced a Russian Colonel, who had no time to carry off his effects, I found on the table an Order of the Day, in which they promise the Russian Army that the walls of Smolensko shall witness the destruction of the French. Every moment I see columns of prisoners pass, among them several officers, among others a General and Colonel. The former is

Gen. Titschow, brother of the commander of one of Barclay de Tolly's divisions; and the Baron Arnfeldt, nephew of the General of that name, who has so often changed his country. They were taken in the brilliant affair in which the brave General Gudin was wounded. Yesterday we had the misfortune to lose him. His thigh was amputated above the knee; but it was impossible to save him. Every hour in the day a great number of officers were besieging his apartments to know how he did. I was informed yesterday that he had just departed this life. He was a lion in battle, and in society it was impossible to have more mildness and meekness. However, his death was well revenged. We made a frightful carnage in the battle of Valentina. The Russian Generals Mamenski and Esca remained dead on the field of battle: but General, Korff, who is said to have been mortally wounded, is a more sensible loss.

From that moment we were pursuing them without being able to overtake them. They are saving themselves as quickly as possible; one would say they were fearful of not arriving in time at Moscow, to assist at the *Te Deum* that will be sung: for this Hymn is become to the Russians the Hymn of Death, and has taken the place of the *De Profundis*. But this Charlatanism imposes neither upon the troops nor the inhabitants.

The deserters and prisoners we have made, speak of the divisions and discouragement that reigns in the Russian Army. We are all indignant at seeing so much country lost without having risked a general battle.

The health of the Army is excellent, and we are in no want of bread and meat.

### SPANISH AFFAIRS.

*From the London Statesman of Nov. 23.*  
Extract of a letter from a British officer dated Madrid, October 23.

I have already mentioned to you the mortification we experienced in receiving orders to retreat. I can neither express nor depict to you the misery of the poor Spaniards. When we came here after the battle of Salamanca, a military commission was instituted, and a great number of eminent characters were strangled, according to the Spanish usage, for having manifested too much friendship for the government of Joseph.

Thus it was, that fear and not attachment induced the people to take the new oath of fidelity; which was administered after official assurances by the

British and Spanish authorities, that the French were forever banished, and that the government of the regency was re-established upon the firmest basis. The results of such premature assurances could not be otherwise than fatal, no one, unless possessed of a heart harder than a rock could refrain from feeling at hearing the lamentations of those unhappy beings, (a great number of whom are of the highest circle of society) going in crowds to the English head quarters, to implore protection, and speaking loudly against those deceptive promises to which they were likely to become victims, and stating their fears of the punishment the government of Joseph would inflict upon them for having yielded to our menaces. Their situation is truly pitiful; but our retreat will have a most fatal effect upon the common cause.—It has shaken the confidence of the people in the protection they expected from the English, and has proved, at least to the Spaniards, that we are unable to conquer their country, and rescue it from French power.

We are all surprised to hear it stated that it is believed in England, that the government we have established, is popular in this country, rely upon it you are much deceived, I am as well acquainted with Spain as most of the English officers here; and I can assure you, in the most positive manner, that the government of Joseph is, of the two, the more popular among the Spaniards. The English army costs them the same as the French army; but the Spanish army and the Guerillas, are real scourges to the inhabitants, wherever they direct their march. In a word, I assure you, positively, that notwithstanding all you read in the papers in England, of ladies who come to meet us, of their courtesy at balls and other places of amusement, we have found it quite the contrary, for in most of the towns through which we have passed, the greater part of the women had disappeared, and followed the French in their retreat.

It is said we shall occupy anew our old lines at Torres Vedras, for it is impossible for us to resist the united force of the French, who have actually in Spain upwards of 130,000 men: Caffarelli and Souham have upwards of 40,000: Joseph has with him a corps of 10,000; Soult and Suchet, between them, has certainly not less than 80,000, including the corps under General Ducaen.—What have we to oppose them? Forty thousand English to the utmost. We hourly expect to be joined by Gen. Hill: and after having made the parade of forcing Soult to evacuate Andalusia, and raising the siege of Cadiz, we are actual-



ly unable to prevent the French from coming back to that city, and even taking it, unless the corps under General Maitland, be promptly ordered thither.

It is a measure, however, which cannot fail of taking place; for if we re-enter Portugal, that corps must, I suppose, re-embark on its return to Sicily, Seville and Cadiz are now open to the army remaining at Valencia, and could be occupied at the same time, unless the British arrive in time to fortify the latter; for the former will certainly again fall into the power of the French without any difficulty. It is known that the French have promised to the Inhabitants of Seville the enjoyment of the city, provided they obtained the store-houses. I do not believe, indeed, that Cadiz can be saved; for it is very probable the French will make an attempt against it.

I am, in fact, well convinced, that without the assistance of the English troops stationed at Alicant, the Spaniards will not defend that place three days against the attacks of the French. No one can tell what will become of the Regency, who did not dare to come to the continent during the short period of our prosperity. After the battle of Salamanca, it was believed that that body would resume its sittings in Seville or in Grenada, or in Madrid; but, on the contrary, it is shut up in Cadiz, but from the present turn of affairs, and according to the prevailing opinion, I know not if it dare sit any where.

#### HEAR THE ENEMY.

##### BRITISH ACCOUNT

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Head-Quarters, Quebec, Dec. 17, 1812.

GENERAL ORDER.—His excellency the commander of the forces has great pleasure in announcing to the troops under his command, that he has received a report from major-general Sheaffe, communicating the detail of a partial action with the main body of the enemy's army under the command of brigadier general Smyth, on the 28th of November, on the Niagara frontier, between Chippawa and fort Erie, which terminated with distinguished honor to a very small division of the British army under lieutenant-col. Bishop, who in a most spirited and gallant manner, defeated and repulsed an invading enemy, so vain glorious in the great superiority of his force that he had with an ostentatious pretence of humanity proposed the surrender of Erie, to avoid an useless effusion of British blood, and which was instantly rejected by lieutenant-col. Bishop, with the contempt it merited.

The enemy was gallantly opposed in landing, at 2 o'clock in the morning, by the parties under lieutenant King, of the royal artillery, and lieutenants Bartley, and Lamont, commanding detachments of 30 and 35 men each, of the 49th regiment; lieutenant Bartley prevented for a considerable time, the landing of a force more than ten times in number, and did not relinquish the contest, until his party, reduced to 17 effective men was threatened by a strong detachment of the enemy, who had landed on his flank.—He made good his retreat, and joined major Ormsby, Lieutenants Ding and Lamont resisted with spirit the advance of the enemy, until both those officers being severely wounded, and a number of their men killed and wounded, they were under the necessity of giving way to an overwhelming force; the wounded officers fell into the enemy's hands. Major-general Sheaffe, expresses in the strongest terms, his entire approbation of the celerity and decision evinced by it, colonel Bishop, who moved with reinforcements from Chippawa, and met major Ormsby, who had marched with the detachment of the 49th regiment from fort Erie, and also detachments of the 41st regiment, and of militia, under lieutenant-col. Clark and major Hatt. At day-break this force advanced to meet the enemy, and made prisoners a captain and 38 men of the enemy's artillery, and recovered the guns which had fallen into their hands, and remounted them on the batteries. This force formed to receive the threatened attack, but the enemy being much galled by the musketry, and suffering considerably from a six pounder, most ably served by bombardier Jackson of the royal artillery, turned their boats to their own shore, after a vain display, for several hours, of their numerous armament. From the numbers left on the field, and the boats that were sunk, the enemy's loss must have been very great.

A heavy cannonade was kept up from all the enemy's batteries during the day, but with little effect.

His excellency cannot express in sufficiently strong terms his approbation of the steady discipline, and intrepid firmness, displayed by the troops on this occasion, who, undaunted by the superior force of the enemy in numbers have evinced a brilliant and glorious example of the pre-eminence of the British discipline. Major-General Sheaffe, reports the assistance rendered by major Ormsby and the officers of the 49th regiment, and the light infantry company of the royal New-Foundland regiment, under captain Whelan, and of

the militia, under lieutenant-col. Clark and major Hatt, and captain Kirby, of the artillery, and of the Indian warriors, under major Givens, as having been gallantly and judiciously displayed, reflecting the highest honour on every individual engaged.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General,  
North America,

From the *Columbian Phoenix*.

#### BRITISH RELIGION.

Every possible effort has been made by the adherents of Britain, to enlist the feelings and prejudices of Americans in her cause, and deaden their sensibility to her insults and enormities.

They have addressed themselves to our tears—for "she is the only barrier between France and universal despotism;" to our sympathies—for "she is the mother country; she speaks with us a common language; and her soil entombs the ashes of our fathers." They have spoken to our literary prejudices—for "Shakespeare & Newton and Locke are hers;" and lastly, to our PIETY—for "she is the bulwark of our religion."

It would be interesting to contemplate her in each of the attributed characters; but with the profoundest veneration, let us now view her as "the bulwark of our religion."

It scarce need be remarked, that she was thus characterized by the chief magistrate of Massachusetts, very soon after the commencement of the present war. Now, if it be not rigidly true, that the enemy is the bulwark of our religion, I see not what can save his excellency from the guilt and disgrace of having uttered a falsehood of the most pernicious kind; for, if it is a falsehood, a pernicious one indeed must it be, as its tendency is to damp the martial ardor of all who believe it, and produce a fear in the minds of the pious, that in fighting against "the bulwark of our religion," they might be found fighting against God. How stands the fact then? From what does it appear that Great Britain is the bulwark of our religion? Not surely from the persecutions, banishments, and murders of her catholic and dissenting subjects, for that only proves her the bulwark of her own "religion, by law established"—which is known by all who are acquainted with it, to be a thing not precisely synonymous with christianity, which it is presumed his excellency meant by our religion.

But more perhaps there is nothing capable of throwing light on the subject, than certain statements made by Dr. CLAUDE BUCHANAN, in his "*Christian Re-*



*searches in Asia*—a work to which I would refer the reader as containing much information, not only of the bulwark of our religion, but of religion itself; and I must confess that the facts there stated, place the British government in a point of view, so wicked, so detestable, that no authority short of that of a divine of the church of England and a warm admirer of her government, (as was Dr. Buchanan) would command my belief of them. The facts are these—read them, and see how nations as well as individuals sometimes.

“With the semblance of devotion’s visage,  
Do sugar o’er the devil himself.”

A great proportion of the Asiatic subjects of Great Britain worship an idol called Juggernaut, the ceremonies of whose worship are the most obscene and the most cruel that can be imagined—as a proof of which take the following extracts from Buchanan’s journal of a tour to his temple.—

“We know (says he) that we are approaching Juggernaut, through more than fifty miles distant, by the human bones which we see strewn by the way. The idol has been justly called the Moloch of the present age, and he is justly so named, for the sacrifices offered up to him by self-devotion are not less criminal, perhaps not less numerous, than those recorded of the Moloch of Canaan. The walls of the temples are covered with indecent emblems, in massive and durable sculpture.”

“At 12 o’clock this day, it being the great day of the feast, the idol was brought out of his temple, amidst the acclamations of hundreds of thousands.—the throne of the idol was placed on a car sixty feet high, whose massy wheels indented the ground as they turned slowly under the ponderous machine. After a few minutes the car stopped, and the worship began; a high priest pronounced obscene verses in the ears of the people, who reposed in the same strain; a pilgrim now announced that he was ready to offer himself a sacrifice to the idol; he laid himself down before the car, as it was moving along, and was crushed to death by the wheels of the tower—and great numbers are annually sacrificed in the same way!”

Now let these things be borne in mind, and viewed in connection with what follows.

“I feel it my duty (says Buchanan) to state, that these idolators are our own subjects; and that every one who can do it, pays a tribute to the British government for leave to worship this idol! This is called the revenue of the temple; a judicial officer, supported by military force, is appointed [by the bulwark of

our religion] to collect the tax from pilgrims resorting to the temple of Juggernaut! Other temples in Hindostan have been long considered as a legitimate source of revenue!”—Again: “The temple of Juggernaut is under our own immediate control and management; the law enacted for this purpose is entitled, ‘A regulation for levying a tax from pilgrims resorting to the temple of Juggernaut.’† Now let all this be briefly recapitulated—

1st. Millions of British subjects are in the practice of a most abominable and cruel idolatry.

2d. It is in the power of the British government to stop it; by a single mandate, they could raze the temple, and knock the idol from his throne.

3d. But instead of doing this, they tolerate, they protect, they derive an enormous revenue from the worship of the idol.

4th. In proof of this, we have the direct testimony of one of the most eminent divines Great Britain can boast.

5th. And yet the American people are insulted, not to say that God is blasphemed, by a declaration that “Great Britain is the bulwark of our religion!”

#### *An Enemy to Juggernaut and Juggernaut’s Bulwark.*

\* Query—May it not with propriety be said, that there are two kinds of religion established by the laws of England—and when the Church of England is spoken of, will it not be necessary to ask whether the Church of Juggernaut be meant?

† Sometimes, when speaking of the wickedness of the British government, I have been told of her pious exertions in sending missionaries among the Heathen, &c. I would like to know if the money collected from the worshippers of Juggernaut is laid out in the support of a mission. The truth is that individuals and particular societies in England have done much for the cause of religion, but the government would prefer the worship of Belzebub himself to that of the Most High, provided it could be made a source of revenue.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in New-Orleans, to the Agent of the privateer Saratoga, of this port, dated Feb. 2d, 1813.*

“I learn, from a conversation had with a gentleman from Cartagena a few days since, that the Saratoga, capt. Wooster, had put into that port to repair, having had an engagement with one of his Britannic Majesty’s brigs, in which her foremast was splintered and sails considerably injured; his majesty’s ordnance having vomited forth broken bottles. Previous to this, my informant says, that Capt. Wooster informed him he had taken several prizes, and directed them for the Atlantic ports. The one

immediately preceeding the above rencontre, was a letter of marque of 14 guns, who contested his superiority for a length of time, when she was taken by boarding. For two months previous to the 20th ult our coast had not been visited by cruizers. The Brazen sloop of war is aground to the eastward of the Balize, and there is a 64 gun ship attending her.”

*Extract of a letter from a respectable person in the Chickasaw nation, to his Correspondent in Washington City.*

“There is a report by way of the Creeks and Chickasaws, that the Georgians have killed five hundred of the Lower Creeks, or what is known to be Simelonians; the Chickasaws say they hope it is true.”

*Extract of a letter from Thos. R. Hazard & Co. of Liverpool, dated 20th Dec. 1812.*

“We beg leave to inform you that woollens are not now allowed to be shipped for the United States, so that the shipment per ship—, we sincerely hope will pay a handsome profit.”

*From the National Intelligencer.*

Letters have been received from General Harrison, we understand, at the Department of War of a date much later than the information we this day copy from a Chillicothe paper. It is said that he had advanced with his army to the river Raisin, and as late as the 20th had not met the enemy.

GENERAL ST. CLAIR.—We mention with pleasure that the Legislature of Pennsylvania have granted 200 dollars a year, and 200 in hand, to General St. Clair; which will rescue his old age from misery. *Catskill Recorder,*

SHOCKING!—On the night of the 2d inst. the house of Levi Crippen, of Penfield, (formerly of Fairfield, Herkimer county) was burnt, and with it his six children, the oldest about 9 years, the youngest an infant about 7 months.—The parents, it is said, were both from home, nearly a mile.—*Canandaigua paper.*

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